

Bureau of Emergency Medical Services'
Policy Statement:
The Trauma Registry and Its Reports

I. Introduction

The purpose of the Trauma Registry, as it is defined in A.R.S. 36-2201(24), is to enable the Department of Health Services to assess and improve the quality of trauma services provided in Arizona by investigating the quality of trauma care services provided by licensed health care providers, prehospital providers, and other components of the statewide Trauma System through the review of a certain predetermined Trauma Registry Data. The essential components of quality improvement in the Arizona trauma care system are: injury epidemiological analysis and injury prevention evaluation. Use of the State trauma registry (STR) for scientific epidemiological analysis and evaluation of injury prevention efforts are an appropriate quality improvement use of the STR.

These Trauma Registry Data are submitted by the Trauma Centers in the State of Arizona as required by A.R.S. 36-2221(A). For the Trauma Patients, the Trauma Patients' families, the health care providers and the Trauma Centers' protection, this Policy Statement defines the standards for collecting Trauma Registry Data and outlines the Department's policy regarding the confidentiality of that Trauma Registry Data as required under A.R.S. 36-2222(E) (1) and (3). Additionally, any of the Trauma Registry Data that are provided or produced for Quality Assurance purposes, is confidential pursuant to A.R.S. 36-2403.

II. Definitions

A. For the purposes of this Policy Statement:

1. "Aggregate Trauma Data" are the data in or from the Trauma Registry Data that has been combined such that the resulting data does not directly or indirectly identify a Trauma Patient, the Trauma Patients' family, the health care provider, or the Trauma Center.
2. "Department" refers to the Arizona Department of Health Services.
3. "Public Report" refers to a report that is created and intended for public dissemination and that meets the requirements outlined in the "Policy for Arizona State Trauma Registry Reports Dissemination".
4. "Quality Assurance Committees" are those committees including the Data/QASI Committee, organized for the purpose of conducting quality review under A.R.S. 36-2404 and the quality assurance process.

5. "Quality Assurance Process" is the process that is adopted by the Department, the State Trauma Advisory Board, the Data/QASI Committee, or other State QA committees, as that process defined in A.R.S. 36-2401 (4).

6. "Quarterly Trauma Reports" are those reports that contain Aggregate Trauma Data that examine the demography of trauma patients and the incidents, causes, injury severity, outcomes and operations of the Trauma System.

7. "Trauma Advisory Board" is that board defined in A.R.S. 36-2222.

8. "Trauma Centers" are those hospitals defined in A.R.S. 36-2201(22).

9. "Trauma Patient" is a patient who is included in any data set, who meets the criteria adopted by the Trauma Advisory Board.

10. "Trauma Registry" is that registry defined in A.R.S. 36-2201(24).

11. "Trauma Registry Data" are any patient record including clinical records, prehospital care records, medical reports, laboratory statements, any file, film, record or report or any piece of information contained within those items that are submitted to the Department and/or any data collected by the Department on Trauma Patients for the purposes of evaluating the incidents, causes, injury severity, outcomes, and the operation of a trauma system and its components. Trauma Registry Data are not Aggregate Trauma Data, but are the components thereof. In preparing Trauma Registry Committee Reports and/or Interim Reports, Trauma Registry Data shall be limited to the reports defined in the "Policy for Arizona State Trauma Registry Reports Dissemination".

12. "Trauma System" is the system defined in A.R.S. 36-2201(24).

III. **Trauma Registry Reports**

A. Trauma Registry Reports and Trauma Registry Data will be released to participating hospitals and are available to the public in accordance with the "Policy for Arizona Trauma Registry Reports Dissemination". This policy defines the categories of reports that will be generated from the State Trauma Registry and the utilization and distribution of those reports. Under this policy the State Trauma Registry may generate three types of reports:

1) Standard Public Reports

2) Quality Assurance Reports

3) Special Reports

Quality Assurance Reports are generated in accordance with the Quality Assurance Process by the Quality Assurance Committees. These reports are related information and are confidential in accordance with A.R.S. 36-2403.

Standard Public and Special Reports may be generated using only aggregate trauma data and are available to the public only in accordance with the "Policy for the Arizona State Trauma Registry Reports Dissemination".

IV. **Retention of Reports**

The Department shall retain all Standard Public Reports, Quality Assurance Reports, Special Reports and any other Trauma Registry report generated, for a period of ten (10) years from the date of completion of the report.

Approved by STAB: 3/23/00